

YVGS FAMILY FINDERS

YUCAIPA VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

www.yvgs.org

P.O. BOX 32, YUCAIPA, CA 92399-0032

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The Yucaipa Branch Library



July 2008—VOLUME 26 NO. 7

President's Message

Whew! It's hot out there and hopefully you are staying cool inside. I am very grateful that we live in a time of air conditioning. Yes, it can be expensive, but I think it is well worth it.

Since it is too hot and gas prices are high, it's time to think about activities that you can do at home. One of my favorites is reading. I've been reading books that are autobiographical or genealogical in nature. I am currently reading *Kinfolks: Falling off the Family Tree-The Search for my Melungeon Ancestors* by Lisa Alther. Melungeon's are an ethnic group shrouded in some mystery. They are found in the Appalachia region of the United States and one of their genetic traits can be an extra thumb found on the hand. This book starts out about the author's growing up but then gets into her research on her family history. She discusses interviews with distant family members and how her family hid the "skeletons" in their closet.

Hard Times in Paradise: An American Family's Struggle to Carve out a Homestead in California's Redwood by David and Micki Colfax isn't a genealogy book. In fact, it is a book about a homeschooling family. This family leaves everything behind to buy land in the California Redwoods and then proceeds to build a house. Their struggle to raise four boys in extremely primitive conditions reminded me of what it was like for our pioneering ancestors. Even when this family builds their house, something they knew nothing about, they live without electricity and running water.

Both of the above books I checked out from the Yucaipa Library through their larger library system. Take a break this summer and put your feet up, get a cold drink and spend the day leisurely reading a book in the air conditioning. I bet you will be glad you did.

On a side note, our speaker for July, Jim Smith from the Native Sons of the Golden West will not be able to make it. We are working on a replacement program for the July meeting. I know we will have a worthwhile meeting, in any case. Please come and be surprised!

Until next month!

Gena

Computer Display with Projector on Screen

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~Many Computer Usage Problems~

Group Representative:
Donna L. Senff-Mata
Call for information:
951-654-1796

donna.mata1@verizon.com

New Year's Resolutions by Maureen Taylor

Editor's note: Last month, you may remember we read about June's resolution from Maureen. This month, we are continuing that series with the resolution for July.

During those hot moist summer days watch out for temperature and humidity damaging your heirlooms. Color photographs left in a stack can end up stuck together just from fluctuations in those two environmental issues. If you're storing things in a hot attic or damp basement it's definitely time to get those boxes of heirlooms in a stable area like an indoor closet.

Protected from the Elements: Storing Heirlooms at Home

Raise your hand if you've tucked things away in nooks and crannies all over your house. Don't be embarrassed; your hand isn't the only one up. Finding storage space around the house can be difficult without the added constraints of discovering a preservation-quality hideaway. Locating the right spot can seem impossible, but it's easier than you think. Let's explore the five environmental factors that can destroy the articles you are trying to save—temperature, humidity, light, pollution, and pests.

Years ago when I was a photo curator, I spent a week rescuing a collection of family papers and photographs that had been stored in a barn. It's an event I'll never forget. The whole lot was infested with bugs and mice, and damaged by mold and mildew. A few boxes, an appropriate storage place, and a simple dehumidifier could have eliminated the problems.

Temperature and Humidity

In most cases, maintaining a constant temperature helps your treasures last into the next

century. Fluctuating temperatures cause many materials to expand and contract, resulting in damage. While color photographs do best in a frost-free freezer set at zero degrees Fahrenheit, generally 65-70 degrees is a good storage temperature for the majority of your family treasures. (If anyone saw my last column with the temperature of 77 degrees, please ignore it. I'm not sure how I managed to miss that typo, but I did.)

You can set your thermostat on 65 and keep it there, but it won't mean a thing if the humidity increases dramatically in the summer and decreases in the winter. High humidity combined with fluctuating temperatures means mold, and you really don't want to see what happens to a photograph when it's exposed to mold for a long period of time. I've seen it completely destroy pictures, papers, books, and clothing.

There are a few things you can do.

- First, be aware of the relative humidity in your storage area. Relative humidity refers to the average amount of moisture measured in the air. Humidity can be decreased by using a dehumidifier and conversely increased with a humidifier. Most archives maintain a relative humidity of 30 to 50 percent.

- Protect against temperature and humidity fluctuations by storing materials in a succession of boxes creating an "archival" nesting box. Each layer of acid- and lignin-free boxes acts as a buffer between the outside air and the interior of the box.

- If you want to spot check your home environment, invest in a device called a hygromograph that can record both temperature and humidity. Once you know the amount of fluctuation you can take steps to fix it. [Light Impressions](#) sells a couple of inexpensive models on their website under the heading "environmental controls."

Light

Ultra-violet (UV) light in sunlight and fluorescent lights causes damage. Fading photographs on display in living areas are often a result of too much sunlight. It's a good idea to keep family heirlooms out of direct sunlight to protect them from UV and the heat of the sun. Place more fragile pieces in dark storage.

- Archives and museums that use fluorescent light or that have lots of windows often use UV filters over fluorescent lights.

- When framing items for display, use special UV protective glass or filters to eliminate the deteriorating effects of UV light. If the article you

want to exhibit is valuable consider displaying a copy rather than the original.

These materials are available from a number of library and archive suppliers.

Pollution

I wish I was just referring to outdoor pollution in this section, but I'm not. Every time you clean the house you're actually polluting the indoor environment with chemicals that can damage precious family heirlooms. Different types of cleaning solutions and techniques are recommended for each type of heirloom. Two excellent guides are:

Caring for Your Family Treasures, by Jane S. Long and Richard W. Long (Abrams, 2000)

Caring for Your Collections, Arthur W. Schultz, general editor (National Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Property/Abrams, 1992)

Pests

Pests are easily discouraged by a clean, well-kept area. Make sure all your materials are not already infested before packing them away so you won't be surprised by the damage that can occur from a few bugs.

Storage Possibilities

The best spot in your house to store materials is an interior closet away from light, water, and heat sources. If you don't have one in your dwelling, follow the recommendations listed above for temperature, humidity, and storage, or look for a facility that offers museum-quality storage.

Before placing your valuables in offsite storage, investigate their claims. These facilities should meet the minimum standards of constant temperature and humidity but here are some questions to keep in mind when you visit.

- Are the storage areas clean?
- What are the environmental controls?
- Do they have a security procedure?
- What's their disaster plan?
- How can you retrieve material?
- How much do they charge?

If you use common sense and the right supplies you'll be taking steps to preserve all your valuables for the next generation. The collection of material from that barn suffered irreparable damage from years of improper storage. Don't let your family treasures suffer the same fate.

Maureen A Taylor is the author of *Preserving Your Family Photographs* (Betterway 2001) and *Scrapbooking Your Family History* (Betterway

2003). She can be contacted at Maureen@maureenataylor.com.

Yucaipa Valley Genealogy Speakers

For the rest of the Year:

July 12—To Be Announced

August 9—Randy Thompson from the

National Archives

Topic: Using the National Archives

September 13—Dariel "Dee"

Anderson Rey Topic:

Cemeteries and Funeral Homes

October 11—Don Beld

Topic to be announced

November 8— Dee Chapman

Topic: Digital Scrap booking

December 13— Earl R. Giddings

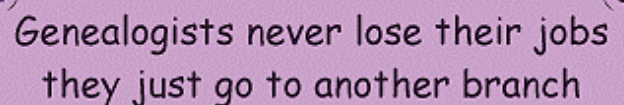
Topic: Surveying and

photographing cemeteries

NEW ENGLAND BOOKS

The books we received from Fredericksburg, Texas, are not being used. For a complete listing of the books, email Earl Giddings at clemgds@gmail.com and ask for FGS book listing.

If you would like to spend some time reviewing the books, call Earl at 909-486-0378 for



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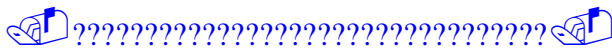
yourfamilyhistory@hotmail.com
www.yourfamilyhistoryresearch.com

ALL ABOUT CEMETERIES and FUNERAL HOMES

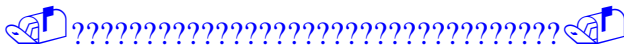
Our September speaker will be Dariel “Dee” Anderson Rey from Desert Lawn Funeral Home and Memorial Park, FD-189. Dee is a licensed Cemetery Broker and Family Service Supervisor.

Dee will cover the general aspects of both cemeteries and funeral homes. However, to make the program more specific for the needs of genealogists, she would appreciate input from our members about the areas we would like covered and specific questions (not personal), about cemeteries and funeral homes.

Please send suggestions about topics pertaining to cemeteries and funeral homes to Earl Giddings at clemgds@gmail.com.



What’s in the Mail box?



The YVGS corresponds with other genealogy societies in different parts of the United States. We receive the following newsletters:

- Los Angeles WESTSIDE Genealogical Society*
- Patrick County (Virginia) Tracks*
- Northwest Iowa Rootdiggers*
- The Family Gathering (Morongo Basin)*
- Desert Diggings (Hi-Desert GS)*
- The Searcher (Southern California)*
- Past Finder (Hemet-San Jacinto GS)*
- Somervell (County, Texas) Settlers*
- CSGA Newsletter—California State Genealogical Alliance*
- The News and Notes (Southern California Genealogical Society)*

The mailbox column will be in the August newsletter. In the meantime, don’t forget to look

on the table at the front of the meeting room. Our current correspondence will always be out for the members to peruse.

The mail will always be placed on the display case on the side of the meeting room. Please take the time to browse through what’s there. *Remember, this Society gets mail addressed to all members. It’s your mail!*



JAZZ UP THE WEB PAGE

The Web Committee is interested in improving the visual appearance of the YVGS web pages. We solicit input from all members on how to make the web pages more appealing to the eye.

Some things to keep in mind:

- Page layout
- The Yucaipa City Flower—the Iris
- The beautiful view of the mountains in the winter
- The history of Yucaipa Valley
- The colors of the pages

The person whose entry is selected will receive

a

\$50.00 Stater Bros. Gift card!

Send your web page designs, in color and detail to Earl R. Giddings, 35451 Wildwood Canyon Road, Yucaipa, CA 92399, or email to clemgds@gmail.com before 15 July.

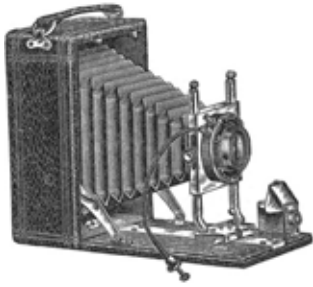


Copied from the Rootsweb newsletter:

The person listed beneath my great-great-grandparents in the census has listed as his occupation, “whiskey drinker.”

Thanks to Cheryl





Digital Camera Tips

Today's cameras make taking pictures a lot easier than the ones of yesterday. There is always room for improvement, however. Use the following tips to help make your photos go from acceptable to great.

1. Always be aware of the background. You don't want to find trees growing out of people's heads or a passing vehicle to draw attention from your subject. Sometimes moving your subject just a couple steps to either side can make all the difference.
2. Use available light. If your digital camera has an option to turn the flash off and it's light enough outside to read a book, then use the available light, and turn the flash off. In general, camera flashes are too harsh for human skin and make all of us look pale. Indoors, where there isn't enough daylight, place your subject by a window and use your fill flash feature.
3. Aim your camera slightly down at the person's face. Also, don't shoot just face on to the person, try a little to the side, a three quarter view, so that you see more of their face. Remember camera higher looking down and a three quarter view, it will slim your subject.
4. Remember your focus. Get closer to your subject. Fill the frame with your subject and there will be no doubt as to what the picture is saying.
5. Never put your subject dead center. Put your just slightly off center; not a lot just a little. When you're shooting groups of people, find the imaginary center line of your group and put that line just a bit off center in your view through your lens or screen.

Following these tips won't turn you into an award winning photographer today, but you will be on your way to better, more powerful photographs that others will comment on for years to come.

Copied from Cal Fire/Riverside County Fire Department Health and Safety Newsletter
By : Mike Mansfield www.lydiasarticles.com



FREE DIGITAL CAMERA and PHOTO WORKSHOP

CVS Pharmacy/Photo Center 33499 Yucaipa Blvd,
Yucaipa, CA (909) 797-3500

Every Saturday from 2 to 4 pm, May – August
Bring your camera and any type of storage device that contains your pictures.

The instructor Vince Ruscigno will cover digital cameras and printing pictures. You will receive hands on experience using the store equipment to make beautiful photographs.

For additional information call Vince at 797-3500.

Vince is a well-qualified instructor having received an award for the most positive customer feedback for last year's workshop in his district that covers over 50 stores.



If you have articles, pictures or essays you would like to contribute to the newsletter, please contact the editor, Jamie Daniel, at:

Jamiedaniel33@gmail.com

or

909 792-2962

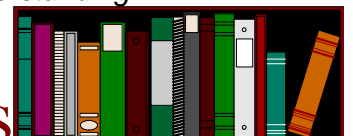
or

P.O. Box 32

Yucaipa, CA 92399-0032

Editor's note: I will be traveling most of July and part of August, so there will be a very abbreviated newsletter in August. If you have important information for the Society in August, be sure to send it to me ASAP, so I can work it in...and thanks in advance for being understanding.

BookEnds



Paperback Exchange Unique Gifts Greeting Cards

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ALL ABOUT CEMETERIES
and
FUNERAL HOMES

Our September speaker will be Dariel "Dee" Anderson Rey from Desert Lawn Funeral Home and Memorial Park, FD-189. Dee is a licensed Cemetery Broker and Family Service Supervisor.

Dee will cover the general aspects of both cemeteries and funeral homes. However, to make the program more specific for the needs of genealogists, she would appreciate input from our members about the areas we would like covered and specific questions (not personal), about cemeteries and funeral homes.

Please send suggestions about topics pertaining to cemeteries and funeral homes to Earl Giddings at clemgds@gmail.com.



Please remember to bring your old cell phones and your used computer printer ink cartridges to the next meeting. Our society will receive cash back for recycling these items.



GUIDE LINES FOR WEB PAGE SUBMISSION

The Web Committee encourages all members to be involved in the production of the web page.

The guidelines are simple; however, there is one of importance: do not copy parts of or all of any other web page or document without the owner's written permission.

Send text documents in Word, (preferred format) Word Perfect, or Notepad.

Send photos in .jpg.

If timing is a factor, send for arrival at least 3 weeks ahead of due date.

Send by email to Earl at clemgds@gmail.com or CD by mail or deliver to Earl R. Giddings, 35451 Wildwood Canyon Road, Yucaipa, CA 92399-5124.



We have some new faces on the board, but there are still two positions that need to be filled. If you have a bit of extra time every month, we need someone to complete the year as Vice President (no, it does not mean you will be the next president), and someone else to take over the **Ways and Means**, since Gena is President this year. When the nominating committee was looking for help last year, you didn't come forward—but you can now! Please don't make the same ones of us do all the work...we need everyone to be involved!

Here are a few interesting names that have been transcribed for FreeBMD:

- Olive Green Coates;
- Milder Currey;
- Fanny Packer;
- Owen Owen Owens;
- Kitchen Fawcett;
- Young Fry;
- Violet Tulip;
- Hugh Pugh;
- Wealthy Case

Copied from Rootsweb newsletter, with Thanks to Dave

Classes for 2008

Redlands Yucaipa Multi-Stake Family History Center
All Classes Sunday evening 7:00p.m.
Redlands Stake Center High Council Room

July 27—Topic: "Photo-editing your Pictures"
Speaker: Yvonne Gadbois

August 24 –New Family Search Speaker: To Be Announced

September 28—Topic: "Internet Genealogy"
Speaker: Annette Spaulding

October 26—To Be Announced

November 23—Topic: "Church Records"
Speaker: Shawn Price

Family Humor

A little girl asked her mother, "How did the human race appear?"

The mother answered, "God made Adam and Eve and they had children and so was all mankind made."

Two days later the girl asked her father the same question.

The father answered, "Many years ago there were monkeys from which the human race evolved."

The confused girl returned to her mother and said, "Mom, how is it possible that you told me the human race was created by God, and Dad said they developed from monkeys?"

The mother answered, "Well, dear, it is very simple. I told you about my side of the family and your father told you about his."

*Copied from the Rootsweb newsletter,
Thanks to Donna*



People who depend
on

their family tree for
status
should shake it



first.

Family History Center

Located at 5th and Wabash in Redlands
Hours:

Tuesday - Thursday
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
6:00p.m. to 9:00p.m.

Friday - Saturday
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

FHC Telephone Number: 909.794.3844

Thanks to our member, Earl Giddings, our Treasurer, Marg Polich, will buy the Stater Bros. cards before the meeting, so you will be able to take it home with you .



Good News! Buy your Stater Bros. gift cards and take them home with you!

We're selling *Stater Bros.*

Gift cards at the meeting.

The Society receives a percentage back from Stater's...and everyone needs groceries!



Public Library

www.hemetpubliclibrary.org

Classes in Computer usage for Beginners
Microsoft Excel
Microsoft Power Point

These are offered on a Sign up Basis, 7 people to a class. You sign up at the Reference Desk and leave your telephone number. When a class is filled, you will be called and told which days to come. They will be hands-on with laptop computers available. Larry Bowles, Leticia Bowles and Dan Atherstone offer instruction; all are quite knowledgeable.

Free Classes

Mr. Bowles is a certified genealogist



"You have to love a nation that celebrates its independence every July 4, not with a parade of guns, tanks, and soldiers who file by the White House in a show of strength and muscle, but with family picnics where kids throw Frisbees, the potato salad gets iffy, and the flies die from happiness. You may think you have overeaten, but it is patriotism."

~ Erma Bombeck

Andy Capp by Reg Smythe

To forget one's ancestors is to be a brook without a source, a tree without a root."
Chinese Proverb



Thank you Dori Breshears and Barbara Firestone for the delicious refreshment that you provided for the June meeting.

July refreshment will be provided by Terry Brown and Jamie Daniel.

August refreshments will be provided by Barbara Thomas and Lorraine Hughes.

Sue Wolfe, Hospitality



Terry Brown



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Genealogist's Dilemma

**While looking up my fam'ly tree, a horrid sight there I did see
This horse thief stared right down at me. I turned around and tried to flee**

**“Please stop!” he called. “I’m Great-Gramp Bob, and horses just my side line job.
Don’t be too quick to be a snob. With the elite I did hob nob.**

**“Please do not hide this sad research. I was a pillar of the church,
Until I did our name besmirch, and toppled from my lofty perch**

**“For if my acts do you displease, before you cheer my obsequies,
Search your own life for errors please, and any deeds that smell like cheese.**

**“The acts that you perform today, will they look white or dapple-grey?
And in the future will they say, ‘Oh no, I have this DNA’?”**

Arthur L. Glasgow — 1997

*Yucaipa Valley Genealogical Society
Gena Philibert Ortega, President
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Yucaipa, CA 92399-0032*

FIRST CLASS

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